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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

DDI-00292/85

3 MAY 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert M. Kimmitt
Executive Secretary
National Security Council

SUBJECT: Draft NSDD on Pacific Basin

1. The NSC has asked for CIA concurrence on the subject draft NSDD on the Pacific Basin. We do not concur at this time, believing that the NSDD should first be improved in clarity and purpose. Our reasons:

- The proposed NSDD is unclear as to what exactly the Pacific Basin is, or should be conceptualized as. There is much rhetoric concerning the Pacific Basin that is highly positive, but the concept means different things to different actors. There is considerable disagreement as to what the Pacific Basin includes. The ASEAN countries focus on themselves plus the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. Others believe Korea, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong should be included. Another view includes Mexico and other parts of Latin America. The draft NSDD tends to leave these questions hanging.
- There are possible negative, as well as positive, aspects of the Pacific Basin idea which the NSDD should mention. The NSDD's assumption that "trends and developments are in the overall interest of the United States and further our foreign policy objectives" overlooks the possibility that some of the actors involved now see Pacific Basin cooperation principally as a means to expand exports to the US, which has the potential to increase the US trade deficit.
- There is a possibility that under the rubric of Pacific Basin cooperation the spread of anti-nuclear sentiment could be encouraged. There is evidence that New Zealand's anti-nuclear policies are gaining credibility among some of the Pacific Island states. Indonesia has also been supporting the creation of a nuclear weapons free zone as a first step towards the establishment of a Zone of Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality.

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- There is a possibility that cultural, religious, and other basic forces could promote disruptive nationalistic influences in the Pacific. US efforts to enhance cooperation, even if limited and focused on nonofficial areas, probably will be interpreted by some groups as intervention, possibly leading to intensified anti-US feeling, and potential Soviet gains. The proposed NSDD needs to consider how such eventualities should be dealt with.
- The NSDD should be clear about just what mix of US private and government involvement is envisaged. The proposed NSDD needs to be more precise on what degree of government involvement is envisioned in supporting the private sector, on how this might affect US security interests, and on what the US could do if its economic interests are threatened by increasing multilateralism. The present proposal focuses on encouraging the private sector while "not seeking at this stage to create formal governmental structures." Yet it also says that "agendas and membership of any multilateral forum must be carefully examined and managed." These two goals are not compatible.

2. In withholding concurrence at this time we are not fighting the idea of a Pacific Basin. We do feel strongly, however, that the USG not embark on this journey until the NSDD has pointed out more clearly what the name of the voyage is, and just where the USG wishes it to go.

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Executive Secretary

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